Consent and Supported Decision Making

Your Choices Matter

At Ability WA, we respect your right to make your own decisions, have choice and control, and take positive risks that are important to you.

What matters to you, matters to us.

We support you to make decisions in a way that works best for you, considering your age, communication style, culture, family and personal circumstances. We also recognise the important role of families, carers, kin, guardians and support networks.

Consent

Consent means giving permission or agreement for something to happen.

Ability WA will work with you to understand who can provide consent and how decisions are made.

- If you are **18 years or older**, we will seek consent directly from you unless there is a legal order that says someone else can make certain decisions.
- If you would like support to make decisions, we will work with you and the people you choose to help you understand your options.
- If you are unable to communicate your wishes and there is no legal order in place, we may work with trusted family members or supporters to help make decisions in your best interests.
- If you have a **Guardian or other legal decision-maker**, we will work with both you and them to understand how decisions will be made.
- If you are under **18 years of age**, we will work with your parent/s or legal guardian/s unless a legal order says otherwise.

We will also talk with you and your family about how you would like to be involved in decisions and communication.

Supported Decision Making

At Ability WA, we believe everyone should be supported to make decisions to their fullest capacity.

We will ask you about:

- How you communicate
- How you like to make decisions
- Who you want involved in supporting you and when we should involve them

We record your preferences and use them to guide the support we provide every day.

Your preferences can change, and we will regularly check in with you to make sure your choices, goals and wishes continue to be respected.

Our Commitment

We are committed to:

- Respecting your privacy and confidentiality and keeping your information secure
- Supporting your independence in making informed decisions about your life
- Respecting your choices and rights and genuinely listening to learn and
- Working alongside your family, kin, guardian and support network (where you choose)

Your voice, your choices, your life.